

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SOFIA 00963 091526Z
ACTION EUR-12

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-----091541Z 096778 /42

O 091353Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2840

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0963

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, BU (ZHIVKOVA, LYUDMILLA)
SUBJECT: ZHIVKOVA VISIT

FOR EUR DEPUTY ASST SEC ARMITAGE FROM AMBASSADOR

REF: A) STATE 104082; B) STATE 104081

1. DELIGHTED THAT DETAILS OF ZHIVKOVA VISIT ARE FALLING INTO PLACE AND EXTREMELY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR HELP. BELIEVE THAT NANCY HANKS WILL BE ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE AS HOST FOR ZHIVKOVA (REF A), AND EQUALLY VERY PLEASED THAT OUR IDEA OF SIGNING THE CULTURAL AGREEMENT IN PRESENCE OF CABINET LEVEL OFFICIAL HAS BEEN ACCEPTED (REF B). IF YOU COULD SOMEHOW GET WORD HERE BEFORE MY MEETING AT 11 AM TOMORROW (0900 GMT) CONFIRMING THESE DETAILS, OUR CUP WOULD RUN OVER.

2. I HAVE JUST ONE QUALM, AND THAT CONCERNS THE PROSPECTIVE WHITE HOUSE MEETING WITH MRS MONDALE. THIS IS OF COURSE VERY IMPORTANT IN VIEW OF MRS MONDALE'S CONCERN WITH THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN OUR SOCIETY, BUT FROM THE BULGARIAN POINT OF VIEW IT MAY LOOK A BIT ODD THAT MRS ZHIVKOVA, WHO AFTER ALL IS NOT THE WIFE OF MR ZHIVKOV BUT A WOMAN HOLDING A CABINET POSITION, IS TO BE RECEIVED BY SOMEONE WHO DOES NOT

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HOLD -- AS FAR AS I KNOW -- ANY OFFICIAL POSITION EXCEPT THAT OF BEING THE CHARMING AND POLITICALLY ACTIVE WIFE OF ONE OF OUR HIGHEST PUBLIC OFFICIALS.

3. LET US THINK FOR A MOMENT HOW IT WOULD LOOK IF SECRETARY KREPS WERE TO COME HERE AND TO BE RECEIVED NOT BY ONE OF THE RANKING MEMBERS OF THE BULGARIAN EXECUTIVE BUT BY THE WIFE

OF ONE OF THEM, HOWEVER HIGH HER STATUS. I AM SURE THIS ASPECT HAS BEEN KEPT IN MIND, BUT IF IT WERE POSSIBLE FOR MRS ZHIVKOVA TO CALL ON A RANKING WOMAN OFFICE-HOLDER, THIS WOULD BE PREFERABLE POLITICALLY AND MUCH MORE PLAUSIBLE. HOWEVER, I DON'T THINK THE BULGARIANS WOULD BE UNHAPPY ABOUT SCHEDULING THE WHITE HOUSE MEETING WITH MRS MONDALE; THEY WOULD BE HONORED -- BUT ALSO A LITTLE PUZZLED.

4. I DON'T SUPPOSE THERE IS ANY HOPE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT SPENDING AT LEAST A MINUTE WITH MRS ZHIVKOVA? (IF HE SAID SOMETHING TO HER ABOUT THE MAREV CASE, THAT WOULD REALLY REVERBERATE HERE.) IF IT WERE POSSIBLE FOR MRS. ZHIVKOVA TO SEE SECRETARY KREPS, I THINK THAT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO THE MEETING WITH MRS MONDALE, EVEN THOUGH THE LATTER WOULD BE AT THE WHITE HOUSE.
HERZ

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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